



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 25, 2001

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HOMELESS COURT TO BE AWARDED GRANT AT STAND DOWN

The Foundation of the State Bar of California will present a check for \$5,000 to the Ventura Superior Court's Homeless Court at Stand Down on July 27, 2001, at Ventura College. The presentation will be made at 11:00 a.m. in Room C-104 off the main gymnasium immediately before court proceedings for homeless defendants begin.

The grant money will be used to fund a Homeless Court program coordinator who will be responsible for the screening of cases, scheduling court calendars, coordinating activities with homeless advocacy and shelter programs, conducting case follow-up, collecting data and preparing reports.

Michael Case will present the check on behalf of the Foundation. Judge John Dobroth will also present certificates to volunteers and staff who have worked so hard in making Homeless Court a success in recognition of the one-year anniversary of Homeless Court.

Stand Down is a community-based intervention program designed to assist homeless veterans break the cycle of homelessness.

Homeless Court is an alternative sentencing program that provides a mechanism for homeless individuals to resolve outstanding minor offenses through community service in lieu of fines. Most of these citations result from the condition of homelessness, such as sleeping or drinking in public or various traffic-related infractions.

Since the program's inception in July, 2000, 153 cases involving 65 defendants have been referred to Homeless Court. Over 2,700 hours of community service have been completed.

The Foundation of the State Bar of California is a major contributor of seed money to important projects affecting the betterment of our communities and justice throughout the state. It is dedicated to providing support for projects that the legal community finds necessary and important but which might not find funding from other sources.

The Foundation was created in 1990 to provide support for law-related educational projects in the State of California. It has expanded to include other types of projects all within the legal field. Over the past 11 years, the Foundation funding mix has grown to include legal education, support of bar association projects, court projects, law school projects, and scholarships as well.

Grants are awarded following a very competitive application process based on the perceived value and quality of the program, and in an attempt to provide seed money for projects of promise. Unfortunately, the number of promising applications exceeds the Foundation's resources.

The Foundation is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization aligned with, but separate from, the State Bar of California. Its ability to serve projects like these is made possible by the generosity of its corporate sponsors and the members of the State Bar, who in recent years have been especially supportive.

This will be the ninth year the court has participated in Stand Down.

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